

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5166
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T DACCA 3439

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, BG, IN
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ZIA'S COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH INDIA

1. DURING OUR MEETING ON JUNE 23, PRESIDENT ZIA SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED WITH HIS TALKS WITH MORARJI DESAI DURING THE COMMONWEALTH MEETING. HE FOUND THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER FORTHCOMING AND UNDERSTANDING OF BANGLADESH'S PROBLEMS. HE IS NOW EVEN MORE CONFIDENT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE.

2. ON SPECIFICS, ZIA SAID THE INDIANS HAD AGREED TO RELEASE 35,000 CUSECS THROUGH THE FARAKKA BARRAGE DURING THE TEN-DAY LEANEST PERIOD. THE AMOUNT RELEASED WOULD INCREASE ON A PROPORTIONAL BASIS ON EACH SIDE OF THIS LEAN POINT. ZIA CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT A DELEGATION FROM NEW DELHI WILL ARRIVE BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH, HOPEFULLY TO COMPLETE THE ACCORD. ZIA NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT COMMITMENTS BY TOP LEVEL INDIAN LEADERS WERE QUITE OFTEN DILUTED BY THEIR SUBORDINATES DURING SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS. (COMMENT: THE LAST WE HEARD, INDIA HAS OFFERED 31,500 CUSECS. THE 35,000 FIGURE, IF
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ACCURATE, WOULD REPRESENT A GOOD COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE INITIAL GOI AND BDG POSITIONS.)

3. ON THE BORDER SITUATION, ZIA SAID BETWEEN 800 AND 900 "MISCREANTS" HAVE SO FAR ENTERED BANGLADESH. EXCEPT FOR AN INITIAL FRACAS WHEN SEVERAL ARRIVED WITH THEIR WEAPONS, THE GOI IS COOPERATING IN THIS TRANSFER.

THOSE WHO RETURN ARE NOW BEING HELD IN RELOCATION
CENTERS WITHIN BANGLADESH, BUT ZIA SAID MOST HAVE RECANTED
AND ARE READY TO RESETTLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. ZIA BE-
LIEVES THE GOI IS STILL CONTINUING SOME LIMITED SUP-
PORT FOR DISSIDENT ELEMENTS ACROSS THE BORDER, BUT
THINKS THIS IS PHASING DOWN AND WILL EVENTUALLY STOP
ENTIRELY. IN GENERAL, HE SEEMS WELL SATISFIED WITH THE
PACE AND DIRECTION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.
MASTERS

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